

# OPC Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • OCTOBER 2004

## OPC to Host Ignatieff and Berman: Perspectives on Terror

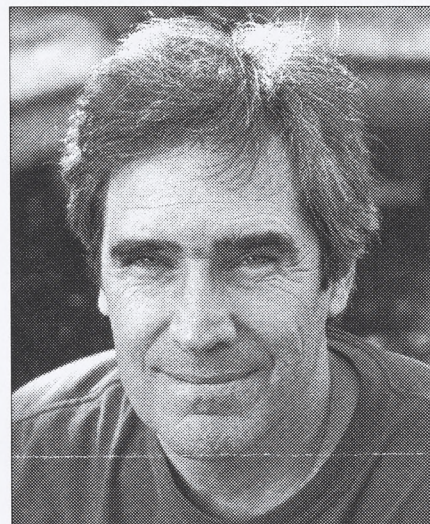
The OPC and the Canadian Consulate General are co-sponsoring a timely conversation between Michael Ignatieff, author of "The Lesser Evil: Political Ethics in an Age of Terror," and Paul Berman, author of "Terror and Liberalism." Ignatieff asks the loaded question "Can a liberal democracy fight terrorism without destroying the values for which it stands?" Berman argues that Islamic fundamentalism is the new face of fascism, and that we are facing not a clash of civilizations, but rather the same battle that tore apart Europe in the twentieth century—a clash of liberalism and its enemies.

Ignatieff, acclaimed Canadian writer, historian, broadcaster and human rights advocate, is currently the Director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University. Previously he covered the Balkan wars for the BBC, the *Observer* and *The New Yorker*. Berman is an author and journalist who writes about politics and literature for *The New Republic* and *The New York Times Magazine*, among others.

The discussion between these two  
(Continued on Page 5)



Paul Berman



Michael Ignatieff

## Editing Conflicts: Panel Examines International News After 9/11

By John Boldrick

Hand grenades. Friendly fire. Torture. Kidnappings. This was shop talk at the OPC as the club hosted a panel discussion on "Reporting and Editing International News in the Post-9/11 World" for a capacity crowd of 100 members and students. As C-SPAN's cameras rolled, Club President Richard Stolley introduced V.P. Jane Ciabattari, Distinguished Writer in Residence at Knox College, who organized the event.

Panelists included Jeff Bartholet, foreign editor of *Newsweek*; Susan Chira, foreign editor of *The New York Times*; Adi Ignatius, foreign editor of *Time*; David Schlesinger, global managing editor and head of editorial operations of Reuters (who flew in from London to attend); Bill Spindle, Middle East/Africa/Central Asia Bureau Chief of *The Wall*

*Street Journal*; and moderator Nicholas Lemann, Henry R. Luce Professor and dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University and *New Yorker* staff writer.

While the panelists touched on issues affecting the world at large and relating to September 11, 2001, the focus remained squarely on the problems of reporting the news in Iraq. To "dispel any mood of levity," Lemann began by asking each editor to relate the worst thing that had happened on their watch. Each had at least one story from Iraq.

Spindle recounted the murder of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Danny Pearl in Pakistan, the shocking loss which proved that in the "War on Terror," journalists are targets. But he also told of repeatedly evacuating reporters and "fixers," or local  
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# Press Regulation Looms in Brazil

By Charles Hack

Human rights groups and the Brazilian press have slammed new legislation, saying that by creating a new regulatory council with powers to fine journalists and prevent them from working, the government would have excessive control over the freedom of speech. But President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, whose press secretary, Ricardo Kotscho, announced the plan in August, defended the move, saying that it is necessary to control the excesses of the press.

According to a report by news agency ACAN-EFE, the legislation was originally proposed by Brazil's National Federation of Journalists (FENAJ), but numerous journalists, judges, and legislators have blasted the bill, saying it is repressive and could lead to censorship.

"It seems like a tribute to the omnipotent Estado Novo ['New State,' meaning the dictatorial Vargas regime of the '30s, '40s, and '50s], with a touch of Mussolini, George W. Bush, and Hugo Chavez," wrote Alberto Dines, a columnist for the Rio daily *Jornal do Brasil*.

According to the proposed law, a Federal Journalism Council would be created to monitor reporters and ensure that their work complies with journalistic ethics. The council would "orient, discipline and oversee the practice of the journalistic profession."

The Council could warn, censure, or even remove professional credentials from journalists who produce "unethical" work. To practice legally, Brazilian journalists must have a journalism degree and accreditation.

"It is essential that the society can count on FJC, which will serve the public interest, the ethics, the democracy and the plurality in the journalism. In contrast to restricting the press's freedom of speech, the Federal Council aims [to] fight the manipulation of the information, the distortion of facts that serve privilege and suspicious interests to the detriment of the fulfilling the social function of journalism" [*sic*], according to a statement on the FENAJ web-site.

The announcement came just two months after the Brazilian justice ministry temporarily canceled the visa of Larry Rohter, a Latin American correspondent for *The New York Times*, for writing an article suggesting that president da Silva had a drinking problem that impeded his ability to govern. Rohter's visa was reinstated after an international uproar.

The legislation will have to be approved by the Brazilian House of representatives, according to the newspaper *O Jornalista*.

The Brazilian Press Association, which represents the profession but is not a labor union, opposed the bill. Even the

chairman of da Silva's own Workers' Party, Jose Genoio, requested that the administration withdraw the bill.

Brazil's *Folha de Sao Paulo* accused da Silva of having a "Stalinist twitch," and questioned whether FENAJ had more loyalty to the journalism profession or to da Silva's Workers' Party, with which the organization has links.

But the administration attempted to throw back the accusation of authoritarianism at the press. "They are trying to restrict the debate with hollering, to win by making an uproar, and that is authoritarianism," Rohter quoted Brazil's chief of staff, José Dirceu de Oliveira e Silva.

The da Silva government has even attacked Rohter's article, with Kotscho accusing him, and the *Times*, of making libelous accusations.

The government has recently faced a number of corruption scandals over money transfers by the president of the central bank and the fund-raising practices of the ruling party. Government press officers have denied a connection between those incidents and the press-regulation plans.

Many reporters, both foreign and domestic, have long complained that the da Silva government has not provided the same access to officials that they had under former President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, according to a United Press International report.

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### OPC Bulletin

ISSN-0738-7202  
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Overseas Press Club  
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# Middle East—Covering the Coverage

By Al Kaff

"The Christian kingdom founded at Jerusalem after the First Crusade had stood precariously for a century, guarded by the military order of the Knights Templars and Hospitallers. Its continued existence was largely due to the disunity that prevailed among the Moslem lands surrounding it....In October 1187 Jerusalem surrendered, and thereafter all Palestine and Syria, except Tyre, Antioch, and Tripoli, fell again into Moslem hands....The Pope shared the general horror of the Christian West. His legates traversed the Courts enjoining peace among Christians and war against the infidel."

"A History of the English-Speaking Peoples" by Winston Churchill [1956]

August 12

The *Washington Post* became the latest U.S. publication to write that it erred before the war in Iraq by not giving more prominence to articles that questioned Bush administration claims that Saddam Hussein was hiding weapons of mass destruction. In a front-page article, Executive Editor Leonard Downie Jr., wrote: "We were so focused on trying to

figure out what the administration was doing that we were not giving the same play to people who said it wouldn't be a good idea to go to war and were questioning the administration's rationale." In a May article, *The New York Times* acknowledged that before the war its editors had not been skeptical enough about articles that depended "at least in part on information from a circle of Iraqi informants, defectors and exiles bent on 'regime change' in Iraq whose credibility has come under increasing public debate." *The New Republic* in a June issue acknowledged that "the central assumption underlying this magazine's strategic rationale for war now appears to have been wrong."

August 15

Four Iraqi police cars surrounded a hotel where journalists stay in Najaf, and the police ordered all journalists to leave the holy city. The order means that the only news coverage of violence in Najaf, a city revered by Shiite Muslims, would come from reporters accompanying U.S. military units.



Private TV broadcasters have been springing up in Iraq during the past year, and the latest, Nahrain ("Rivers" in Arabic), opened in August with plans for a soap opera, a reality show and a talk show of news, interviews and features. Mohammed Gohar, driving force behind Nahrain, told Nicola Clark of the *International Herald Tribune*: "Under Saddam, the media was a means for the government to send its message to the people. Now we have the means to help the people get their message to the government." Gohar, 52, is founder and chief executive of the Egyptian production company Video Cairo Sat. About a dozen private TV broadcasters now operate in Iraq. "But they remain loosely regulated," Clark wrote. "Many are also being founded and funded by the country's various ethnic or religious factions, raising concerns among government officials that they are being used to serve the political interests of their benefactors."



Mohammed Gohar

August 16

Hollywood filmmaker David O. Russell is working his editors on 24-hour shifts in order to complete a documentary about the Iraqi war before the November U.S. presidential election. Russell told *The New York Times*: "It will look at both sides of the war, people who feel good about the war, who believe in the mission, people who feel bad. I thought I could perhaps make a difference before the election, to let people see the situation, how Iraqis wanted to get rid of Saddam Hussein, but also show what war does to people....The Army doesn't want to acknowledge the human cost of the war machine." The film includes interviews with Iraqi refugees who acted as extras in "Three Kings," Russell's 1999 movie about the Gulf War.

August 22

Micah Garen, the American documentary film producer who was kidnapped August 13 in the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriya (September *Bulletin*), was freed by his captors. He returned to New York City and his French-born fiancée, Marie-Helene Carleton. She and

(Continued on Page 10)

## Foundation Takes Pulse of Health Reporting in Africa

NAIROBI, Kenya—The International Women's Media Foundation has released "Deadline for Health: The Media's Response to Covering HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria in Africa," a study of health reporting by the African press. The study looks at the media's coverage of the diseases in Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi and Senegal.

The study finds that AIDS dominates health coverage, eclipsing other health concerns. It also argues that although women bear the brunt of disease in Africa, there is insufficient focus on women's health information, and that journalists lack training in health and science reporting and have limited time and resources to pursue stories.

"The media have incredible power to help Africa come to grips with the

challenges of HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria," said Akwe Amosu, executive editor of news website allAfrica.com and IWMF board member. "But despite work by some trailblazing reporters and editors, these findings demonstrate a lack of capacity and a lack of courage in the media."

The IWMF also announced that it will partner with media houses in three countries—Botswana, Kenya and Senegal—to create "Centers of Excellence" to improve the quality and consistency of health reporting.

The International Women's Media Foundation was launched in 1990 with a mission to strengthen the role of women in the news media worldwide, based on the belief that no press is truly free unless women share an equal voice. For more information about the IWMF, visit [www.iwmf.org](http://www.iwmf.org).



# OPC Veterans: Fifty Years and Counting

By Al Kaff

Of the 13 foreign correspondents who founded the OPC in 1939, the first year of World War II, only Robert Spiers Benjamin survives. He turned 87 in August.

In his biographical sketch in "Who's Who in America," Bob, who was born in Brooklyn, wrote: "As early as public school days, I had my goal set on writing about the countries 'south of the border.'" He did. He reported for *Time-Life* from Chile, Argentina and Mexico, directed Latin American operations for *Vision* magazine, was a *New York Times* stringer in Mexico, started an international PR firm with offices in Tampa, Florida, and Mexico City, wrote four books and edited three others.

Bob's son, Robert C. Benjamin, a New York City high school math teacher, was in Mexico City at his father's home this summer, and he told the *Bulletin*: "My father can't walk too well and is under round-the-clock care. If you mention the OPC to him, he'll say 'I've got to get back to New York, because the Club needs me.' But because of his

physical condition, there is no way he can make a trip to New York." Bob's last visit was to attend the OPC Awards dinner in 2003, when he handed the Robert Spiers Benjamin Award for best reporting on Latin America in any medium to Sonia Nazario of the *Los Angeles Times*.

Sixteen other members who joined the OPC more than 50 years ago are still members today. Their current residences and the dates they joined:

- Doris J. Macauley, Margate, Florida, 1945
- Ralph D. Gardner, New York City, 1947
- David L. Eynon, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, 1947
- Michael Stern, New York City, 1947
- Whitelaw Reid, Bedford Hills, New York, 1948
- Bernard S. Redmont, Canton, Massachusetts, 1948
- George W. Herald, Paris, 1948
- Roy Rowan, Greenwich, Connecticut, 1949
- Jack Birns, Los Angeles, 1949
- Jerry Hannifin, Cocoa Beach, Florida, 1949

- Elliseva Sayers, New York City, 1950
- Stanley Rich, Washington, D.C., 1951
- Jeanne Toomey, Falls Village, Connecticut, 1953
- Robert Moskin, New York City, 1954
- John G. Morris, Paris, October 1954
- Rosalind Massow, New York City, 1954

## Vietnam Reunion Planned for 2005

Media veterans of the Vietnam War are planning a reunion in Ho Chi Minh City to mark next year's 30th anniversary of the end of the war. The informal gathering will take place around the April 30, 2005 anniversary—from April 27 to May 2—with the goal of renewing old friendships in a city that played an important part in the lives of all those who covered the war.

The two previous reunions, on the 20th and 25th anniversaries, were a great success because they were purely social—no politics, no speeches. The format will be the same next year, with time for sight-seeing during the day on an individual basis followed by cocktails and dinner together.

The Vietnam War attracted thousands of reporters, photographers and television crews from many countries, and this reunion is open to all of them. Those who attend will be responsible for their own travel arrangements, and for getting visas. Please spread the word to any Vietnam media veterans that you know.

Horst Faas, now retired from The Associated Press, and Edie Lederer of AP have set up an e-mail address for those who are interested in attending, so they can send updates and more details as the reunion approaches. Please send an e-mail to the following address if you want to attend: [vietnamreunion2005@yahoo.com](mailto:vietnamreunion2005@yahoo.com)

## OPC Gavel Is Gift from Past President Will Oursler

By Linda Goetz Holmes

Following the reprint (September *Bulletin*) of Gary Shapiro's *New York Sun* story on the mysterious origin of OPC's two gavels, the wife of a past president has solved the mystery. Ad Oursler, whose husband, Will, served as OPC president from 1971–1973, recalled that the Society of Magazine Writers gavel was acquired by Oursler when he was a member of that organization. The second gavel, made of oak from Boston's historic Old North Church, is one of Mrs. Oursler's family heirlooms (she is a *Mayflower* descendant, on both sides).

Will Oursler served as a Pacific war correspondent during World War II for *World at War*, *Argosy*, *True*, *Mechanix Illustrated*, *Your Life* and *True Confessions*. He was accredited to the staffs of both General Douglas MacArthur and Admiral Chester Nimitz, and was espe-

cially proud of the 1945 letter, signed by General MacArthur, awarding Oursler the Asiatic-Pacific Service Ribbon. He continued to write articles for many magazines after the war, and also saw 45 of his books published, including the bestseller "New York, New York."

Oursler was active in OPC for many years, serving in every elected office except vice president, according to his wife. He was credited with retrieving a Frederic Remington painting, which had been purloined by an OPC member, and arranging to sell the painting for \$25,000 to provide much-needed cash for the financially strapped OPC at a precarious moment in the club's history.

Society of Magazine Writers founding member Murray Teigh Bloom tells the *Bulletin* that they would love to have the gavel back.



## PANEL

(Continued from Page 1)

assistants, in Iraq. Schlesinger recalled the deaths of two Reuters staff, and the torture of three others, at the hands of U.S. troops.

Chira mentioned the detainment of *Times* reporters Jeffrey Gettelman and John F. Burns. Ignatius remembered a *Time* staff driver killed by insurgents, and a reporter who lost his hand repelling a grenade attack. He said that the violence and chaos has made Iraq "almost impossible to report, because it's harder and harder to leave Baghdad."

Reporting Iraq has become dangerous, and the editors agreed that their job begins with finding what Spindle called "level-headed people with lots of experience." They only send volunteers on dangerous assignments, and allow them to make their own calls on safety, but also must spend hours managing the details of their movements. Ignatius noted that such volunteers have become hard to find. Chira agreed, but commented that she often discourages younger journalists from volunteering for risks that they can't evaluate. She noted that it is sometimes easier for women to travel freely in Iraq.

Chira, Ignatius and Bartholet all require staff to train and consult with security experts. Schlesinger noted that "cameramen, especially, have to put themselves in danger," since they cannot rely on stringers as reporters can. Visuals are therefore becoming harder to find. Yet in response to a question from an attendee, all denied that personal threats cause journalists to hold back from covering the news.

Most of the panelists agreed that because of the danger to conspicuously Western reporters and the language barrier, they now rely heavily on local stringers and assistants. Chira said that these stringers are often untrained and must learn on the job. Schlesinger agreed that part of his job is spotting and developing local talent. Bartholet and Spindle contended that limited access in dangerous and complex situations means that "we don't know what's going on" in Falluja and Najaf. Chira disagreed, saying that the *Times* is able to report such stories in depth by relying on stringers.

The threat of capture is now part of the war reporter's daily routine. Ignatius noted that the kidnapping of journalists for specific political aims is a new phenomenon since September 11. He mentioned Christian Chesnot and Georges



Ciabattari, OPC; Bartholet, *Newsweek*; Chira, *The New York Times*; Ignatius, *Time*; Lemann, *Columbia*; Schlesinger, *Reuters*; Spindle, *The Wall Street Journal*.

Malbrunot, the two French journalists seized on the road to Najaf, whose captors are demanding the repeal of a French law prohibiting Muslim girls from wearing head-scarves to school. Chira noted that the frequent kidnappings of Westerners in Beirut in the 1980's eventually led to journalists pulling out, but that today, "we can't afford to leave Iraq," because the story is too important.

The freedom of the press is limited by many factors in a war zone. During major military operations, many reporters were embedded with U.S. military units. While this controlled perspective allows for excellent reporting on the troops and their actions, the panelists agreed that it is not sufficient. They all acknowledged that high-level commanders try to spin the news, but that experienced reporters can still work independently alongside the military. Chira said that the *Times* still uses "short-term embeds" to cover the military story. Bartholet said escalating danger in Iraq "could lead back to all-embedded journalism."

Non-embedded journalists face particular challenges. Reporters were ignored by and in some cases in danger from coalition units during the war's initial phases, but Schlesinger sees progress: "the Pentagon is now more willing to recognize and protect non-embeds." Several panelists said that local stringers are especially subject to suspicion and abuse by U.S. troops.

Ignatius named *Time*'s Michael Ware as "the bravest-slash-craziest correspondent" in the Middle East. Ware gets stories first-hand from the insurgents, often asking to be blindfolded for his own safety. Ignatius allowed that there is "a valid ethical question" of how far a reporter

can go to get a story from terrorists.

Iraq has dominated international news since the war began. Bartholet acknowledged that coverage of "more dangerous but smaller wars," and of situations with no American presence, suffers by comparison. Editors face limited public interest, and "a reporter who is in danger says 'the hell with this, I'm only getting page 18.'" Chechnya and African conflicts were offered as examples, but Chira dissented, saying that she is "very proud" of Africa coverage in the *Times*.

Budget pressures finally emerged as another feature of the world after September 11, as Lemann asked the panel his final question. "It's a year from now. There are still U.S. soldiers in Iraq, it's still dangerous, but it's no longer on the front page every day. Do you maintain your presence there?"

Each editor acknowledged that along with the inevitable waning of public interest and the continuing danger to their journalists, another major factor would be the enormous expense of gathering news in a chaotic and violent place.

## IGNATIEFF AND BERMAN

(Continued from Page 1)

intellectuals and historians will be moderated by the Canadian Consul General, Pamela Wallin, who before her diplomatic posting to New York in 2002 was among Canada's most respected broadcasters and journalists.

The discussion, part of the Canadian Conversation Series, will be held on Monday, October 4 at Club Quarters starting at 6:30 p.m., preceded by a reception at 6:00 p.m. Please RSVP to the Canadian Consulate at 212-596-1679.





## PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

### BANJUL, The Gambia:

Assailants smashed the windows in the house of **Ebrima Sillah**, an independent Gambian journalist and BBC correspondent before dawn August 15, splashed gasoline about the place and set it on fire. Sillah escaped without injury. In a letter to Gambian President Yahya A. J. J. Jammeh, the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee said that during the past year fires were set at the bi-weekly *Independent* and Radio 1 FM, an independent broadcaster. "To our knowledge, no one has been charged in any of these attacks," committee co-chairmen **Kevin McDermott** and **Norman A. Schorr** wrote.

**BEIJING:** **Cheng Yizhong**, editor of the *Southern Metropolitan Daily*, was released in August after more than five months in detention without ever being charged. His newspaper earned a reputation for independent reporting by breaking several stories including the first suspected SARS case in Guangdong province. Two of his newspaper colleagues were given long jail sentences on corruption charges. Associates said Cheng was warned by authorities not to grant interviews as a condition for his release, Reuters reported.



Cheng Yizhong

**HOLLYWOOD:** **Tom Brokaw**, the NBC News anchor and OPC member, is one of 32 people who will be commemorated next year when their names and handprints are impressed on the sidewalk of stars at Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street. The honorees from film, TV, radio, recordings and live theater were selected from hundreds of nominations by the Walk of Fame Committee of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.

**HONG KONG:** **Hannah Beech**, *Time Asia*, won first prize in the magazine category in Hong Kong's ninth annual Human Rights Press Awards. **Hugo Restall**, *The Asian Wall Street*

*Journal*, placed first in the commentary and analysis category. Correspondents for foreign publications who won merit citations: **Rebecca Buckham** and **Trish Saywell**, *The Asian Wall Street Journal*, and **Andrew Perrin**, *Time Asia*. The awards are sponsored by Amnesty International, PEN International, the Hong Kong Journalists Association and the Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents' Club.

OPC members **Keith Bradsher**, *The New York Times*, and **Jim Laurie**, Star Group TV, are among correspondents elected to the Foreign Correspondents' Club board for 2004-2005.

**LAKE WORTH, Florida:** A photograph of pallbearers carrying murdered journalist and author Paul Klebnikov's coffin from a Moscow church in July "took me back 22 years to the resort area of the Hamptons," **Leonard Saffir**, OPC president 1988-1990, wrote in Florida's *Lake Worth Herald*. In 1982, Saffir published and edited a weekly newspaper in eastern Long Island, and he hired Klebnikov's brother, Peter, as a reporter. Saffir wrote: "He [Peter] had zero newspaper experience [but]...came up with some excellent investigative reporting. After I gave up weekly newspaper work...I never saw or heard from Peter again until I saw his sad face in the photograph towering over 11 other pallbearers."

**LONDON:** **James Raven**, described as an undercover news reporter who had worked for BBC and Channel 4 television, was convicted of murder in August on charges that he tortured to death suspected drug dealer Brian Walters at a central England farm last year. Raven tied up Walters' adult son and daughter and forced them to watch while he beat, whipped, burned and sexually assaulted his victim, AP reported.

**MANILA:** Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo honored the late *Time* correspondent **Sandra Burton** with the Order of the Golden Heart in a ceremony at Malacanang Palace this spring. Burton, 62, who died in February after apparently falling in her Bali home, witnessed the 1983 assassination of

Benigno (Nino) Aquino, Jr., a political opponent of then President Ferdinand Marcos, and testified at the trial of soldiers accused in the killing (April *Bulletin*). **Robert Delfs**, Sandra's long-time companion, presented the medal to the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Hong Kong, where they met 22 years ago. The Club has renamed one of its rooms in Burton's honor.

**MOSCOW:** Pirating is widespread in Russia, from computer software to Hollywood movies. And this summer a new Russian-language weekly magazine appeared that resembles the *New Yorker* in its cartoon cover, typeface, design, cultural listings and even a section similar to the *New Yorker's* "Talk of the Town."

**Sergei Mostovshchikov**, editor of *Novy Ochevidets* (*New Eyewitness*), sent a copy of the first issue to *New Yorker* editor **David Remnick**, a former *Washington Post* correspondent in Moscow, with a note quoting **Leo Tolstoy**: "All happy families are alike."



Novy Ochevidets

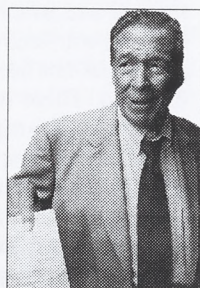
**NEW YORK:** **Bob Sullivan**, a member of the OPC's Freedom of the Press Committee, is now in Beirut as a Knight Fellow on a five-month assignment conducting seminars for Arabic-language reporters. He is a former UPI correspondent in Vietnam, Cambodia, Argentina and Brazil.

◆  
OPC member **Nicholas Kristof**, a *New York Times* columnist, wrote in September: "I've steered clear until now of how Mr. [George W.] Bush evaded service in Vietnam because I thought other issues were more important. But if Bush supporters attack John Kerry for his conduct after he volunteered for dangerous duty in Vietnam, it's only fair to scrutinize Mr. Bush's behavior. It's not a pretty sight. Mr. Bush was saved from active duty, and perhaps Vietnam, only after the speaker of the Texas House intervened for him because of his family's influence....Does this disqualify Mr. Bush from being commander in chief? No. But it should disqualify the Bush campaign from sliming the military service of a rival who still carries shrapnel from Vietnam in his thigh."



The International Press Institute (IPI) has congratulated the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee for publishing the booklet "Journalists in Jail—and How to Help Them." Distributed to OPC members and professional organizations earlier this year, the booklet contains information on 193 journalists who are imprisoned in 29 countries. **Johann Fritz**, CEO of the Vienna-based IPI, said the OPC booklet "greatly enhances public awareness of the severe dangers and enormous difficulties which journalists have to face and how to help them in such precarious circumstances."

◆  
**Mike Wallace:** "I find it difficult to lunge into bed, let alone lunge at a couple of cops who are angry!" That was the comment from the CBS News 60 Minutes correspondent after two police officers handcuffed him August 11, charged him with disorderly conduct and took him to a police precinct station for booking. Spokesmen for New York City's Taxi and Limousine Commission said Wallace, 86, when questioned by the cops became "overly assertive and disrespectful" and "appeared to lunge" at one of them, the *New York Post* and the *Daily News* wrote. But two weeks later, the Commission said its officers had acted "somewhat over-zealously" and charges would be dropped.



**Mike Wallace and summons**

The incident took place around 8 p.m. when Wallace asked the officers why they were questioning the driver of his double-parked Lincoln Town Car while he was picking up a take-out meatloaf dinner at an Upper East Side restaurant. Wallace, an OPC member, was quoted by the *Post*: "One of [the officers] was a hostile, nasty, aggressive, shouting man—over-the-top angry." New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg told the *Daily News*: "I know Mike Wallace casually and I've never thought of him as a particularly threatening person."

◆  
When the OPC was young, the U.S. dollar bought a lot more than it does today. Take these events announced in the December 21, 1950, *OPC Bulletin* that was composed on a typewriter: "OPC LUNCHEON AND COCKTAILS at Toots Shor's, \$2.50 for members."

"OPC GALA NEW YEAR'S EVE FESTIVITY with liquid refreshments, favors, door prizes and a lavish midnight buffet, \$4.50 for members." **Jack Birns**, an OPC member since 1949, mailed a copy of the 54-year-old *Bulletin* to **People**. That issue reprinted a letter to Club President **Louis Lochner** from President

Truman thanking the OPC for its condolences on the death of White House Press Secretary Charlie Ross. Prominent OPC members whose activities were mentioned included **Hal Boyle**, **Bob Considine**, **Emanuel Freedman**, **H. V. Kaltenborn**, **Irene Kuhn**, **Frank**  
(Continued on next page)

## Russian Journalist Poisoned During Beslan Crisis

By Charles Hack

Ten minutes after drinking a cup of tea on a flight bound for Rostov-on-Don in southern Russia, *Novaya Gazeta* reporter and OPC award-winner Anna Politkovskaya lost consciousness. She awoke in Rostov's Central Hospital, and a nurse told her that she had been poisoned.

Politkovskaya was traveling on September 1 to cover the siege of a school in Beslan, North Ossetia that would cost the lives of at least 335 children and adults. She had eaten nothing else on the day of her trip.

Politkovskaya, 45, winner of the OPC's 2000 Artyom Borovik Award, is known for her reports on the Chechen war, and is the author of two books about the conflict. She has reported on atrocities by both rebels and Russian troops, and on the plight of Chechen refugees.

Using experience gained as a negotiator when Chechen terrorists held civilians in a 2002 hostage crisis, she contacted politicians who might help free the hostages. She also contacted Ahmed Zakaev, a representative of Chechen rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov. Zakaev reportedly said that Maskhadov was ready to assist negotiations without preconditions.

At Vnukovo Airport, Politkovskaya was checked in for three flights but was prevented from boarding each one, before eventually being allowed onto the plane for Rostov. Many other journalists were stranded at the airport as flights to Vladikavkaz and nearby cities were grounded.

Politkovskaya was told by doctors at the hospital in Rostov that they were ordered to destroy tests taken at the airport. By Thursday evening she felt better

and was transported to a Moscow hospital. She returned home, under doctor's supervision. It was unclear how long it would take for her to recover.

Politkovskaya believes that the FSB (successor to the KGB) were trying to prevent her from reporting the events in Beslan. "Obviously there are some people who like to delay our departure," she wrote on Sept. 9 in the *Guardian*.

Other prominent journalists were also delayed or prevented from traveling to the hostage crisis. Radio Liberty's Andrei Babitsky, an outspoken government critic, was detained on his way to Beslan. Amro Abdel Hamid, Moscow bureau chief of Arabic news channel Al-Arabiya, was detained for two days while traveling from Beslan to Moscow.

Georgian television reporters Nana Lezhava and Levan Tetvazde were arrested in Beslan for entering Russia without visas, although they were not required by law. And Raf Shakirov, editor in chief of the daily *Izvestiya*, had to resign after the newspaper's publisher, Prof-Media, criticized his coverage of the siege for being "too emotional."

The OPC sent a letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin, objecting to the apparently deliberate and underhanded way in which journalists were prevented from reporting the hostage crisis.

Politkovskaya, together with pediatrician Leonid Roshal, became a mediator in talks with the hostage-takers when terrorists captured hundreds of people in a Moscow theater in 2002. The Chechen rebels, who had refused to speak with other negotiators, asked to speak to her.

The terrorists, she told *Time*, "wanted someone who would accurately report things as they were. My work in Chechnya makes people there feel that I don't lie."



## PEOPLE

(Continued from previous page)

**Starzel, David Douglas Duncan and Carl Mydans.** A note said a 200,000-circulation magazine was looking for an editor: "man preferred but not required;" annual salary \$4,500.

◆  
**The New York Times International Weekly** has been added to three European newspapers: Germany's *Süddeutsche Zeitung* in English, Spain's *El Pais* in Spanish and Italy's *La Repubblica* in Italian. Edited in New York, the supplement includes domestic and overseas news, commentary, color photos and graphics, all selected from the daily *Times*. The supplement in Spanish already appears in newspapers in Mexico, El Salvador, Panama, Costa Rica and Paraguay; and in English in France, England, Greece and India.

◆  
**Leslie Stahl** of CBS News won a Gerald Loeb business journalism award this summer for her *60 Minutes* report on the flight of top graduates from universities in India to jobs at corporations in the United States.

**PARIS:** Two seasoned correspondents joined the *International Herald Tribune* in September when the paper expanded its weekend business section. **Graham Bowley** became the European Union correspondent in Brussels, and **Carter Dougherty** was appointed business correspondent in Frankfurt. Bowley is a former *Financial Times* reporter in London and Frankfurt, and he has contributed to the *New Statesman*, the *FT Magazine* and Britain's *Prospect Magazine*. For the past two years, Dougherty has been covering the Congo War, developments in Rwanda and the Sudan conflict. He is a former associate editor at *Inside U.S. Trade* in Washington, D.C., and a former *Washington Times* business reporter, and he has written for *The Boston Globe*, *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, *Newsweek* and the German newspapers *Handelsblatt*, *Der Tagesspiegel* and *Die Welt*.

**RANGOON:** Documentary film maker **Lazing La Htoi** was arrested this summer for filming a flood in northern Myanmar. In a letter to Prime Minister Than Shwe, the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee wrote: "Your government may succeed to some extent in suppressing the news of the flooding, since

you have apparently seized all 50 copies of the CDs that La Htoi made and closed the studio that made them. But to what purpose?"

**SAO PAULO:** Grupo Abril, Brazil's largest publisher of magazines, books, comic books, maps and travel guides, agreed in July to sell 13.8 percent of the company to Capital Group of Los Angeles for \$50 million. Abril's publications include the Brazilian edition of *Playboy* and *Veja*, Brazil's most widely read magazine that, with a circulation of 1.12 million, is one of the world's best selling newsmagazines. **Roberto Civita**, Abril's chairman and editor-in-chief, said the deal will help the company resume growth after paying off some of its approximate \$300 million debt. The transaction was the first since Brazil revised its media law two years ago to allow foreign investors to own up to 30 percent of Brazilian TV, radio and print media businesses.

**STATEN ISLAND, New York:** Steven Koplan, 45, was arraigned in a Staten Island court August 11 on charges that he sent about 3,500 e-mail messages to MSNBC, threatening NBC News anchor **Tom Brokaw's** life. Koplan, who pleaded not guilty, also was charged with felony child-pornography violations for having 500 images of undressed children on his computer.

**TOKYO:** At a news conference early this year, Crown Prince Naruhito obliquely criticized the Imperial Household Agency's handling of his wife, and rumors blossomed: Crown Princess Masako had suffered a nervous breakdown, may have refused to sleep with her husband, was worried about a possible developmental disorder in her daughter, perhaps the product of in-vitro fertilization, and had poor relations with her in-laws, Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. But no major Japanese newspaper or broadcaster reported these rumors. They were aired in *The Times* of London, *The Washington Post* and other foreign papers. When Emperor Akihito said he had ancestral roots in Korea, his speech was front page news in Korea but barely made inside pages of two Japanese national newspapers, *Asahi* and *Sankei Shimbun*.

**Richard Lloyd Parry**, *The Times* Tokyo correspondent, wrote: "Masako has become an imperial dropout" and she



**Crown Princess Masako**

is "hostile towards the Emperor and the Empress and...waiting for them to die." Parry told the magazine of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan: "Japanese journalists knew about Masako's illness. Why didn't they run the story? Because of the strange institutional taboos that still surround the Imperial Family, which are very murky and not rational and which have a lot to do with Japan's war and postwar history. This period has not been properly dispelled or digested. There is still unfinished business." An example: no reporter ever asked the late Emperor Hirohito about his responsibility for the Pacific War.

The Crown Princess, born Masako Owada, lived many of her younger years in New York City and Boston when her father was Japan's ambassador to the United Nations and taught at Harvard University. Masako is the first future Empress with long residency abroad, a pre-marriage career and a foreign education. She was a Foreign Ministry diplomat and earned an advanced degree from Harvard. More tellingly, she has failed to produce a male heir to the throne.

**WASHINGTON:** A U.S. federal district court judge held *Time* reporter **Matthew Cooper** in contempt of court and ordered him jailed in August for refusing to name the government officials who disclosed to him the identity of an undercover CIA agent. But the judge suspended his order and a \$1,000 daily fine against the magazine while Cooper, who doubles as an amateur stand-up comedian, and *Time* appeal. Later the judge lifted the contempt order and the threat of jail after I. Lewis Libby, Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, waived a confidentiality agreement with the reporter.

**Judith Miller**, a *New York Times*



**Matthew Cooper**



reporter, was subpoenaed earlier by the federal grand jury investigating the leak. The grand jury also subpoenaed **Tim Russert** of NBC's *Meet the Press* to testify on whether the White House leaked the identity of the undercover CIA officer, Valerie Plame, to syndicated columnist **Robert Novak**, who did not disclose his source. Russert told federal prosecutors that when Cheney's chief of staff telephoned him last summer, he did not know Plame's name or that she was a CIA operative. Democrats charged her name was leaked by the Bush administration to get back at her husband, former ambassador Joseph C. Wilson IV, for criticizing the war in Iraq.

◆ **Steve Coll**, who traveled to the Middle East in researching his latest book, resigned as managing editor of *The Washington Post* in August to spend full time writing books and articles for the *Post*. He was the apparent front-runner to succeed the paper's top editor, **Jacques Steinberg** of *The New York Times* reported.



**Steve Coll**

But in an e-mail to the newsroom, Coll, 45, described the strain of juggling his job as No. 2 editor and his work as an author. Author or co-author of four books before he became managing editor, Coll started his most recent book, "Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the C.I.A., Afghanistan and bin Laden, From the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001," just after September 11, 2001 (June/July *Bulletin*). He wrote most of "Ghost Wars" in early mornings or on weekends and now is working on a follow-up book.

◆ OPC member **Andy Rooney** of CBS *60 Minutes* was on hand when his daughter **Emily** won one of this year's 32 National Press Club awards. She was honored for her work on *Beat the Press* for Boston's WGBH-TV. Accepting the Arthur Rowse Award for press criticism, **Marvin Kalb**, a former CBS News correspondent in Asia, said journalism "has not lived through its finest hour" since September 11 but is "emerging out of it once again and maybe we will live to see a much better time."

◆ OPC member **John Schidlovsky**, director of the International Reporting

Project at Johns Hopkins University, encourages early and mid-career journalists to apply for the project's two annual programs during which selected fellows study international issues at Johns Hopkins for 10 weeks and then report from a country of their choice. Contact [www.journalismfellowships.org](http://www.journalismfellowships.org) or [www.irpfellowships.org](http://www.irpfellowships.org).



**John Schidlovsky**

**POSTSCRIPT:** John Boldrick of Brooklyn, New York is the new editor of the *OPC Bulletin*. John was most recently a technical writer and data analyst at Citigroup, before taking a year off to spend with his new son, Carter. He began his journalism career by starting an underground newspaper in high school. In addition to editing and writing for the *Bulletin*, John works as a consultant for New York City's non-profit organizations. He is a news addict, a voracious reader, a fearless cook and oenophile, and a die-hard fan of Italian soccer.



**Boldrick family**

John is honored to be a part of OPC and looks forward to hearing from members with ideas for stories. He can be reached during business hours via phone or fax at 718-855-4606, or via e-mail at [jbaldrick@earthlink.net](mailto:jbaldrick@earthlink.net).

## IN MEMORY

**Iona Marton**, 92, a journalist who was imprisoned for her coverage of events leading to the 1956 Hungarian uprising, died of heart failure September 4 at her home in Silver Spring, Maryland. Writing for United Press, she covered the Communist takeover of Hungary, her



**Iona Marton**

birthplace, often in competition with her husband, **Endre Marton**, an AP correspondent who survives. In 1955, the Martons were tried and convicted on manufactured charges of spying for the United States.

They were released the following year and covered the anti-Communist uprising and its suppression by Soviet forces, reporting that won them a 1957 George Polk award. Alerted that the secret police were closing in after the uprising, the Martons and their children were smuggled out of Hungary, first to Vienna and later to the United States, where she taught French in Maryland high schools. Survivors include her daughter, journalist and author **Kati Marton**.

◆ **Walter Frentz**, 96, who filmed the Nazis in Austria, Poland, France and Germany, died July 6 in Überlingen, Germany. He worked with the late **Leni Riefenstahl**, a master of propaganda films who died last year (October 2003 *Bulletin*), on several documentaries including "Triumph of the Will," a record of Hitler's 1934 Nuremberg rallies, and "Olympia," the monumental film of the 1936 Berlin Olympics. As a World War II cameraman with the Luftwaffe, Germany's air force, Frentz filmed Germany's annexation of Austria in 1938, Hitler's 1939 victory parade in Warsaw and his entry into Paris in 1940. In March 1945, Frentz took the last pictures of Hitler in his Berlin bunker before the German leader committed suicide. After World War II, Frentz worked on documentaries on German and European nature parks and a film titled "5,000 Years of Egypt."

## THE FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION

*Invites OPC members to attend a talk by*

**GENERAL ANTHONY ZINNI**

U.S. Marine Corps (retired)  
Co-Author of "Battle Ready"  
with Tom Clancy

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7 at 6:00 p.m.**

The Kaye Playhouse  
at Hunter College  
695 Park Avenue @ 68 Street

## RSVP:

Phone: 212-481-8100 ext. 240  
Email: [eventsdepartment@fpa.org](mailto:eventsdepartment@fpa.org)



## MIDDLE EAST

(Continued from Page 3)



**Micah Garen and fiancée  
Marie-Helene Carleton**

Micah and Marie-Helene are partners in Four Corners Media, a documentary production company. Garen, who has worked as a freelance photographer for AP, *U.S. News & World Report* and *The New York Times*, told reporters that he wants to return to Iraq to finish his work.

**August 27**

Italian journalist Enzo Baldoni became the first foreign correspondent to be murdered in Iraq since the war started. He disappeared August 19 while traveling to Najaf. A week later, the Arab TV network Al-Jazeera received a videotape from a group calling itself the Islamic Army in Iraq that showed Baldoni, 56, being killed. Shortly after he disappeared, the group issued a statement saying it could not guarantee his safety unless Italy withdrew its 3,000-member military contingent from Iraq within 48 hours. Italy rejected the demand. At least 19 other correspondents have lost their lives in Iraq.



**Enzo Baldoni**

Baldoni, who worked in advertising for *Diario della Settimana* and contributed articles to the Milan magazine, went to Iraq to write a book about the Iraqi resistance. He was the twelfth journalist to be kidnapped in Iraq this year. Most of them have been released. As the *Bulletin* goes to press, Frédéric Nérac of ITV News and Isam Hadi Muhsin Al-Shumary of Suedostmedia are still missing.

**August 28**

Al-Jazeera broadcast a tape showing French reporters Christian Chesnot of Radio France-Internationale (RFI) and Georges Malbrunot of the newspapers *Le Figaro* and *Ouest-France* and RTL radio, and their guide, Mohammed al-Joundi, being held by the same group that kidnapped and murdered Baldoni. The

kidnappers gave the French government 48 hours to overturn the new law that bans Muslim headscarves and other religious symbols in public schools but mentioned no ultimatum. The Al-Jazeera news reader called the law "an aggression on the Islamic religion and personal freedoms." The two French correspondents disappeared while driving from Baghdad to Najaf on the same road and day of Baldoni's disappearance.

The law banning Islamic headscarves went into effect September 2 with most Muslim schoolgirls arriving bareheaded at elementary and high schools. Muhammad Bechari, vice president of the French Council for the Muslim Religion, said France "is not at war with the Islamic faith." He then flew to Baghdad as a member of a delegation to win release of the two French reporters. French officials said the Islamic Army had handed over the two men to a guerrilla group that advocated their release.

**August 30**

Al-Jazeera covered both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, but with a difference. The Republicans allowed the network to hang its banner in full view at Madison Square Garden, but the Democrats meeting in Boston did not. Washington bureau chief Hafez al-Mirazi told the *New York Daily News*: "We're trying to explain to our Arab audience the American political system. The Republicans are more sophisticated and experienced in dealing with international media. The sad thing is not that the Democrats refused it, but that they approved it and then took it down. It gives critics of flip-flopping another example!" About 500,000 Arab-Americans are among Al-Jazeera viewers in the United States, he said.

**September 8**

Commenting on the killing and wounding of hundreds of children and parents in a Russian school, the killing of Nepalese workers in Iraq and attacks on residential towers in Saudi Arabia, Abdel Rahman al-Rashad, general manager of Al-Arabiya TV, wrote in the Beirut newspaper *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*: "It is a certain fact that not all Muslims are terrorists, but it is equally certain, and exceptionally painful, that all terrorists are Muslims. The majority of those who manned the suicide bombings against buses, vehicles, schools, houses and buildings, all over the world, were Muslim. What a pathetic record."

## NEW BOOKS

(Continued from Page 12)

in that other gift of the tongue, language," a *New York Times* reviewer wrote. The 2003 book was published this year in paperback.

**FLORIN Krasniqi** is an Albanian refugee who came to the United States to seek a better life, worked as a roofer and became owner of a Brooklyn construction company. After his family helped start Kosovo's guerilla war for independence, Krasniqi raised money and collected weapons from gun shows in America and arms dealers in Pakistan, and smuggled them to the Kosovo Liberation Army. He recruited Albanian-American volunteers, some of whom left school to fight for a homeland they hardly knew. **Stacy Sullivan**, who was *Newsweek's* Balkan correspondent, followed Krasniqi from Brooklyn to Albania and describes his transformation from a working-class roofer to an Albanian national hero. She tells his story in "Be Not Afraid, For You Have Sons in America" (New York: St. Martin's Press).

**BECAUSE** his private life was so closely shielded, most books on Joseph Stalin deal with his domestic and foreign policies rather than his personality. British journalist and novelist **Simon Sebag Montefiore** draws on archival material, unpublished memoirs and interviews with survivors of that era, including children of Stalin's associates, in writing a personal picture of the Soviet dictator in "Stalin: The Court of the Red Tsar" (New York: Knopf). **Michiko Kakutani**, a *New York Times* book reviewer, comments that Stalin "emerges from this book as a contradictory, creepily flesh-and-blood human being. He is all the more chilling for being a monster with a human face, someone [who believed] that death was the solution to all problems."



**Joseph Stalin**

In another *Times* review, **Richard Pipes**, a Harvard professor emeritus of history, writes: "What we do learn is that Stalin had an unexpected human side to his personality. He could sentence thousands of innocent people to death with a stroke of the pen and then go to his private cinema to enjoy an American cowboy movie, yet he could also display

ROBERT GROSSMAN, THE NEW YORK TIMES



affection and tenderness....There are numerous examples of Stalin's affection for his children and friends of his youth. And he looked after his associates, making sure they took good care of themselves. Once, when Artyom Mikoyan, designer of the MIG aircraft, 'suffered angina and was put to bed, he was aware of someone coming into his room and tenderly laying a blanket over him. He was amazed to see it was Stalin.'"

## MIDDLE EAST

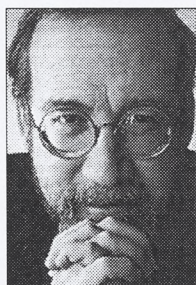
**A**FTER reporting from Latin America, **Pamela Constable** has covered Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and the Iraqi war for *The Washington Post* since 1999. In "Fragments of Grace: My Search for Meaning in the Strife of South Asia" (Dulles, VA: Brassey's), Constable, now a *Post* deputy foreign editor, writes how she lived in the Muslim world: "I have dressed modestly in deference to Muslim feelings, sat for hours hunched on the floor with my feet falling asleep, restrained my impulse to defend the West when some illiterate mullah railed about prostitution and pornography. I have fasted all day with Muslim friends, and broken fast with them at dusk. I have explained my faith to Muslims who expressed curiosity, but my mission has been to understand theirs, not to challenge it...I never hid my Christianity, but I confined it to [a] plain brick church in Islamabad....I am as uncomfortable with militant Christianity as I am with militant Islam."



**Pamela Constable**

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**I**SRAEL'S recent history is dealt with in two books by journalists who have lived there. **Richard Ben Cramer** won a 1979 Pulitzer Prize while he was *The Philadelphia Inquirer's* Middle East correspondent, 1977-1994. To research "How Israel Lost: The Four Questions" (New York: Simon & Schuster), he returned to the Middle East to find out how Israel "ground away, or gave away, her birthright of loyalty from the West." Cramer interviewed Israelis and Palestinians and describes



**Richard Ben Cramer**

events in Israel by how they affected people's lives. In a *New York Times* review, British novelist and journalist **Elena Lappin** wrote: "Cramer is a collector of stories, which he then uses to support two theories about the Middle East: one, that the long occupation has damaged every aspect of Israeli society; and, two, that no peace agreement can be reached as long as Israel does not understand and accept the Palestinian honor principle."

In "Still Life With Bombers: Israel in the Age of Terrorism" (New York: Knopf), **David Horowitz**, editor of *The Jerusalem Report*, quotes his son, "If the bombers kill us, won't they kill the Jews in America next?" The author writes that even the mothers of Palestinian suicide bombers cannot regard terrorist attacks as the finest possible destination for their children, "because otherwise we Jews have no future in this bitter, vicious Middle East without killing and being killed, forever through the ages. And few good people elsewhere have much to look forward to either."

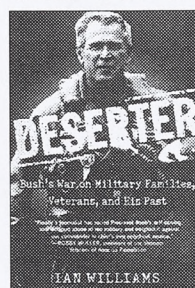


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## NORTH AMERICA

**I**F YOU don't like George W. Bush, you will love this book: "Deserter: Bush's War on Military Families, Veterans and His Past" (New York: Nation Books) by Ian Williams. The author is *The Nation's* United Nations correspondent, past president of the U.N. Correspondents Association, an OPC member and for many years a judge of the Club's annual awards. Williams finds everything wrong with Bush as a Yale student, an Air National Guard pilot, president of the United States and commander-in-chief. Samples:



**"Deserter"**

"From one way of looking at it, all over the world, men and women are now dying and being maimed because George W. Bush had lived through 'the war of his generation,' not only without firing a shot in anger, but also without being within a hemisphere of any such shot."

"He continually refers to himself as 'commander in chief,' and dresses up

whenever he can in quasi-uniform, and indeed he seems to much prefer speaking to handpicked military audiences on bases to addressing the unruly citizenry outside....One has to look to Fidel Castro, or Saddam Hussein, to see someone with a similar appreciation for military tailoring and martial backdrops."

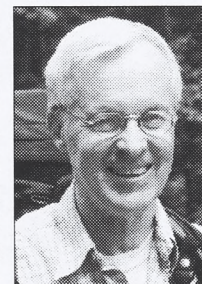
"The White House's deft manipulation of their geopolitical ignorance, anti-Arab prejudice, and clever juxtaposition of pictures of Saddam Hussein with Osama bin Laden under the rubric of the 'war on terror,' had persuaded almost 70 percent of Americans. They believed that Baghdad was behind September 11 and that the war on Iraq was essentially pay-back time."

"At least he did not claim to fly Air Force One to Iraq, as he implied he had [on] the flight to USS Abraham Lincoln."

"Would someone who had actually been in combat, crouched in a foxhole under enemy fire, or who had carried away the bleeding corpse of a dead comrade tell Iraqi insurgents 'Bring 'em on?'"

We could go on and on, because he faults Bush on each of the book's 206 pages and its 24-page appendix.

**C**HRISTOPHER S. Wren, a former foreign correspondent and editor at *The New York Times*, decided at age 65 to "walk into retirement." He did just that. One summer day, he set out from Times Square on a hike that took him through the Bronx and suburban New York, over the rivers and mountains of Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and along the Appalachian and Long Trails to his Vermont summer home. Wren describes his hike in "Walking to Vermont: From Times Square into the Green Mountains—A Homeward Adventure" (New York: Simon & Schuster). Wren camped out most nights with occasional stops in a convent or an inn with his wife. He meets a woman who bakes chocolate-chip cookies just for hikers, stops at a shop that offers hikers free milkshakes and finds a can of beer left chilling in a stream by a "trail angel." He weaves into his narrative bits of lore gleaned from historical markers.



**Christopher Wren**

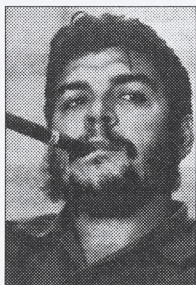
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# New Books

## GLOBAL

**W**HEN he was a 13-year-old schoolboy in Switzerland, **René Burri** used his father's camera to take his first photo, a snapshot of Winston Churchill standing up in a convertible limousine on his way to deliver a speech in Zurich. Now 70 and living in Paris, Burri is one of the globe-trotting photographers who forged the reputation of Magnum Photos. "René Burri Photographs" (New York: Phaidon Press) is a collection of some of his best pictures from Vietnam, Brazil, Cuba and dozens of other countries. Unlike his mentor, **Henri Cartier-Bresson**, who helped found Magnum and was wealthy enough to hate working on assignment, Burri always needed money,



**Che Guevara**

and magazine assignments took him around the world. His 1963 shot of Che Guevara dressed in fatigues with a cigar jutting from his mouth is one of the most familiar images of the guerrilla leader in Cuba. Events and people captured by Burri's cameras include the Suez Canal crisis, the early years of the Vietnam War and the Tiananmen Square demonstrations in Beijing.

Burri said his most memorable photos came from persistence and lucky accidents. Police knocked Burri to the ground and bloodied his nose in 1957 when he tried to get close to photograph Spanish dictator Francisco Franco. Nursing his wounds, Burri read in a newspaper that Pablo Picasso was coming to nearby Nîmes, France, to watch a bullfight. Burri went to Picasso's hotel, where 13 drunken people were at a dinner party with the painter. They demanded a 14th guest for luck. Picasso looked at Burri, whom he didn't seem to know, and demanded: "Sit down and eat!" Burri's photos became among the most famous of Picasso. Crammed into an elevator with Gamal Abdel Nasser, Burri snapped a photo of the Egyptian president grinning like a schoolboy while his bodyguard looked on menacingly.

## ASIA

**D**AVID Aikman, *Time's* former Beijing bureau chief, estimates that "Christian believers in China, both Catholic and Protestant, may be closer to 80 million than the official combined Catholic-Protestant figure of 21 million." And he predicts: "It is possible that Christians will constitute 20 to 30 percent of China's population within three decades." Aikman analyzes the state of Christianity in China in "Jesus in Beijing: How Christianity Is Transforming China and Changing the Global Balance of Power" (Washington: Regnery). In a *Foreign Affairs* review, **Lucian W. Pye** commented: "Like the many observers who get carried away speculating about

China's economic growth, Aikman proclaims that this spread of Christianity will ultimately change the global balance of power. But one does not have to agree with such a prediction to find much of interest in this book." Dealing mostly with current China, the book also reviews the early history of Christianity in China from the Nestorians and Jesuits to the Taiping and Boxer Rebellions.

## EUROPE

**M**ONIQUE Truong, a Saigon-born writer who now lives in Brooklyn, won the fourth annual Young Lions Fiction Award for her novel "The Book of Salt" (Boston: Houghton Mifflin). The \$10,000 award for authors under 35 is given by the New York Public Library. Truong's first novel imagines a fictionalized story of Binh, a gay Vietnamese cook who works for the American writers and lovers **Gertrude Stein** and **Alice B. Toklas** in Paris in the 1930s. In sensitive prose, Truong uses the smell, texture, taste and color of vegetables, fruit, meat and spices to describe Binh's world in colonial Saigon, as a galley hand at sea, living in Stein and Toklas' Paris apartment, and his Sunday assignations with his American gay lover. The novel's mood "is one of melancholy and love, alleviated by Binh's unsated appetite for love and food, and his delight



**Monique Truong**

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